

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. A system for providing in-store printing of rainchecks for purchasing incentives associated with items subject to rainchecks, comprising:

5 an incentive processor for storing a plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to a plurality of item identifiers for items subject to rainchecks;

at least one incentive printer;

a incentive processor bus coupling said incentive processor to said at least one incentive printer;

10 a point-of-sale (POS) controller;

at least one cash register; and

Sub a 15 a POS bus coupling said POS controller, said at least one cash register, and said incentive processor;

wherein a respective cash register of said at least one cash register is configured to receive data defining an item identifier for an item that is subject to a raincheck;

one of said POS controller and said respective cash register is configured to transmit said data defining said item identifier for said item that is subject to said raincheck over said POS bus to said incentive processor;

20 said incentive processor is configured to generate raincheck information including at least one purchasing incentive in response to receipt of said data defining said item identifier for said item subject to said raincheck, said plurality purchasing incentives, and said plurality of item identifiers;

said incentive processor is configured to transmit said raincheck information to a respective incentive printer of said at least one incentive printer over said incentive processor

bus; and

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said respective incentive printer is configured to print a raincheck including said at least one purchasing incentive in response to receipt of said raincheck information received from said incentive processor.

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2. The system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a retailer site configured to identify said plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers; and

an incentive processing site;

wherein said retailer site configured to transmit said plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers to said incentive processing site;

said incentive processing site is configured to receive said plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers from said retailer site; and

said incentive processing site is configured to store said plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers via said incentive processor.

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3. The system of Claim 2, wherein one of said retailer site and said incentive processing site is configured to generate a raincheck list including a description of items corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers along with said plurality of item identifiers; and

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said respective cash register of said at least one cash register is configured to receive said data defining said item identifier for an item that is subject to a raincheck based on said raincheck list.

4. The system of Claim 2, wherein said incentive processor is configured to store a printed raincheck list comprising a list of when rainchecks were printed and item identifiers

corresponding thereto; and

said incentive processing site is configured to generate a weekly report of printed rainchecks and item identifiers corresponding thereto based on said printed raincheck list.

5 5. The system of Claim 1, wherein said at least one purchasing incentive comprises one of a token and a discount coupon;

said token enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is in stock and at a price when said item was subject to said raincheck; and

said discount coupon enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is in stock and at a discounted price.

10 6. The system of Claim 1, wherein said at least one purchasing incentive comprises at least one of a token and a discount coupon;

said token enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is in stock and at a price when said item was subject to said raincheck; and

15 said discount coupon enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is in stock and at a price discounted from said price when said item was subject to said raincheck.

7. The system of Claim 5, wherein said item is subject to said raincheck when said item is not in stock.

20 8. The system of Claim 6, wherein said item is subject to said raincheck when said item is not in stock.

9. A process for providing in-store printing of rainchecks for purchasing incentives associated with items subject to rainchecks, comprising:

storing a plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to a plurality of item

identifiers for items subject to rainchecks via an incentive processor;

coupling said incentive processor to at least one incentive printer via an incentive processor bus;

coupling a point-of-sale (POS) controller, at least one cash register, and said incentive processor via a POS bus;

receiving at a respective cash register of said at least one cash register data defining an item identifier for an item that is subject to a raincheck;

transmitting from one of said POS controller and said respective cash register said data defining said item identifier for said item that is subject to said raincheck over said POS bus to said incentive processor;

generating at said incentive processor raincheck information including at least one purchasing incentive in response to receipt of said data defining said item identifier for said item subject to said raincheck, said plurality purchasing incentives, and said plurality of item identifiers;

transmitting from said incentive processor said raincheck information to a respective incentive printer of said at least one incentive printer over said incentive processor bus; and

printing at said respective incentive printer a raincheck including said at least one purchasing incentive in response to receipt of said raincheck information received from said incentive processor.

10. The process of Claim 9, further comprising:

identifying at a retailer site said plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers;

transmitting from said retailer site said plurality of purchasing incentives

corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers to an incentive processing site;

receiving at said incentive processing site said plurality of purchasing incentives
corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers from said retailer site; and

storing at said incentive processing site said plurality of purchasing incentives
5 corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers via said incentive processor.

11. The process of Claim 10, further comprising:

generating at one of said retailer site and said incentive processing site a raincheck
list including a description of items corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers along
with said plurality of item identifiers; and

receiving at said respective cash register of said at least one cash register said data
defining said item identifier for an item that is subject to a raincheck based on said raincheck
list.

12. The process of Claim 10, further comprising:

storing a printed raincheck list comprising a list of when rainchecks were printed and
item identifiers corresponding thereto via said incentive processor; and

generating at said incentive processing site a weekly report of printed rainchecks and
item identifiers corresponding thereto based on said printed raincheck list.

13. The process of Claim 9, wherein said at least one purchasing incentive comprises
one of a token and a discount coupon;

20 the process further comprising one of:

enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is
in stock and at a price when said item was subject to said raincheck via said token; and

enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is

in stock and at a discounted price via said discount coupon.

14. The process of Claim 9, wherein said at least one purchasing incentive comprises at least one of a token and a discount coupon;

the process further comprising one of:

5 enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is in stock and at a price when said item was subject to said raincheck via said token; and

enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is in stock and at a discounted price via said discount coupon.

15. The process of Claim 13, further comprising subjecting said item to said raincheck when said item is not in stock.

16. The process of Claim 14, further comprising subjecting said item to said raincheck when said item is not in stock.

17. A computer program product comprising a computer storage medium having a computer program embedded in said computer storage medium for causing a computer to provide in-store printing of rainchecks for purchasing incentives associated with items subject to rainchecks, said computer program performing the steps of:

storing a plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to a plurality of item identifiers for items subject to rainchecks via an incentive processor;

coupling said incentive processor to at least one incentive printer via an incentive processor bus;

coupling a point-of-sale (POS) controller, at least one cash register, and said incentive processor via a POS bus;

receiving at a respective cash register of said at least one cash register data defining an

item identifier for an item that is subject to a raincheck;

transmitting from one of said POS controller and said respective cash register said data defining said item identifier for said item that is subject to said raincheck over said POS bus to said incentive processor;

5 generating at said incentive processor raincheck information including at least one purchasing incentive in response to receipt of said data defining said item identifier for said item subject to said raincheck, said plurality purchasing incentives, and said plurality of item identifiers;

transmitting from said incentive processor said raincheck information to a respective incentive printer of said at least one incentive printer over said incentive processor bus; and

printing at said respective incentive printer a raincheck including said at least one purchasing incentive in response to receipt of said raincheck information received from said incentive processor.

18. The computer program of Claim 17, further performing the steps of:
identifying at a retailer site said plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers;

transmitting from said retailer site said plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers to an incentive processing site;

receiving at said incentive processing site said plurality of purchasing incentives
20 corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers from said retailer site; and

storing at said incentive processing site said plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers via said incentive processor.

19. The computer program of Claim 18, further performing the steps of:

generating at one of said retailer site and said incentive processing site a raincheck list including a description of items corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers along with said plurality of item identifiers; and

receiving at said respective cash register of said at least one cash register said data
5 defining said item identifier for an item that is subject to a raincheck based on said raincheck list.

20. The computer program of Claim 18, further performing the steps of:
storing a printed raincheck list comprising a list of when rainchecks were printed and item identifiers corresponding thereto via said incentive processor; and
generating at said incentive processing site a weekly report of printed rainchecks and item identifiers corresponding thereto based on said printed raincheck list.

21. The computer program of Claim 17, wherein said at least one purchasing incentive comprises one of a token and a discount coupon;
the computer program, further performing one of the steps of:
enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is in stock and at a price when said item was subject to said raincheck via said token; and
enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is in stock and at a discounted price via said discount coupon.

22. The computer program of Claim 17, wherein said at least one purchasing
20 incentive comprises at least one of a token and a discount coupon;
the computer program, further performing one of the steps of:
enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is in stock and at a price when said item was subject to said raincheck via said token; and

enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is in stock and at a discounted price via said discount coupon.

23. The computer program of Claim 21, performing the step of subjecting said item to said raincheck when said item is not in stock.

24. The computer program of Claim 22, performing the step of subjecting said item to said raincheck when said item is not in stock.

25. A system for providing in-store printing of rainchecks for purchasing incentives associated with items subject to rainchecks, comprising:

means for storing a plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to a plurality of item identifiers for items subject to rainchecks;

means for coupling an incentive processing means to at least one incentive printing means;

means for coupling a point-of-sale (POS) controller means, at least one cash register means, and said incentive processing means;

means for receiving at a respective cash register means of said at least one cash register means data defining an item identifier for an item that is subject to a raincheck;

means for transmitting from one of said POS controller means and said respective cash register means said data defining said item identifier for said item that is subject to said raincheck to said incentive processing means;

means for generating raincheck information including at least one purchasing incentive in response to receipt of said data defining said item identifier for said item subject to said raincheck, said plurality purchasing incentives, and said plurality of item identifiers;

means for transmitting said raincheck information to a respective incentive printing

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means of said at least one incentive printing means; and

means for printing at said respective incentive printing means a raincheck including said at least one purchasing incentive in response to receipt of said raincheck information.

26. The system of Claim 25, further comprising:

means for identifying at a retailer site said plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers;

means for transmitting from said retailer site said plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers to an incentive processing site;

means for receiving at said incentive processing site said plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers from said retailer site; and

means for storing at said incentive processing site said plurality of purchasing incentives corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers.

27. The system of Claim 26, further comprising:

means for generating at one of said retailer site and said incentive processing site a raincheck list including a description of items corresponding to said plurality of item identifiers along with said plurality of item identifiers; and

means for receiving at said respective cash register means of said at least one cash register means said data defining said item identifier for an item that is subject to a raincheck based on said raincheck list.

28. The system of Claim 26, further comprising:

means for storing a printed raincheck list comprising a list of when rainchecks were printed and item identifiers corresponding thereto; and

means for generating at said incentive processing site a weekly report of printed

rainchecks and item identifiers corresponding thereto based on said printed raincheck list.

29. The system of Claim 25, wherein said at least one purchasing incentive comprises one of a token and a discount coupon;

the system further comprising one of:

5 means for enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is in stock and at a price when said item was subject to said raincheck via said token; and

means for enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is in stock and at a discounted price via said discount coupon.

30. The system of Claim 25, wherein said at least one purchasing incentive comprises at least one of a token and a discount coupon;

the system further comprising one of:

15 means for enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is in stock and at a price when said item was subject to said raincheck via said token; and

means for enabling a customer to purchase said item subject to said raincheck when said item is in stock and at a discounted price via said discount coupon.

31. The system of Claim 29, further comprising means for subjecting said item to said raincheck when said item is not in stock.

20 32. The system of Claim 30, further comprising means for subjecting said item to said raincheck when said item is not in stock.